

**Brownback Statement for Sudan Press Conference**  
**9/19/02**

Ladies and Gentlemen, some of the world's greatest suffering today occurs in the Sudan, because of the brutality practiced by that government against its own people. In response, three years ago I joined my colleagues, Senators Frist, Lieberman, and Feingold, on the Sudan Peace Act, to challenge human rights abuses and provide practical solutions to end the suffering. The House and Senate versions of the Sudan Peace Act passed their respective houses and have languished ever since.

Today, I am happy to announce, that with my colleagues Sens. Feingold, Frist and Gramm, and Congressmen Bachus, Payne and Tancredo, an agreement on the Sudan Peace Act that if passed will set in stone the urgent shift in U.S. policy supporting the forces for democracy that we envisioned three years ago.

The civilian population of Sudan suffers greatly under the crushing, dictatorial hand of the National Islamic Front (NIF) government. It is subjected to extraordinary indignities by that government including the enslavement of women and children, and the bombing of civilian hospitals, schools and religious centers.

After two million dead and four million displaced, it is time for the United States to alleviate the suffering of the people of Sudan and demonstrate its commitment to liberty and democracy throughout the world.

Two things have happened these past few months that has made this agreement possible and will propel the Sudan Peace Act out of the Congress. First, over the summer the milestone Machakos agreement was achieved demonstrating that consistent pressure on the parties can bear out fruitful negotiations. Second, the Congress has come to the conclusion that without a provision for sustained pressure, the work achieved at Machakos will wilt away.

This amendment is a concrete tool with which the United States can use to apply pressure to maintain negotiations and make rapid strides toward a permanent, just peace. The policy presented in this legislation is in America's interest. It promotes containment of the terrorist threat represented by the NIF government, the same government which hosted Osama bin Laden who masterminded the September 11 terrorist attacks and bombed American Embassies in 1998. It promotes regional stability by supporting democracy development. Finally, it is fundamentally right and humane, restoring dignity to a people presently ravaged by slavery, religious persecution, famine, war, and civilian bombing. I hope this legislation represents the beginning of a new Sudan policy and the ending of the war and suffering which has continued far too long.

Now that we have arrived at a consensus, I hope that the President and the Congress can urgently make this bill a priority.